

Message Text

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TAGS:SOPN, CSCE, PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT:NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF PAGE 1 ARTICLE IN NYT JANUARY 27:

"US ASSERTS PRAGUE VIOLATES COVENANTS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS;

.HELSINKI AGREEMENT IS CITED'

" NUSUAL CRITICISM OF A COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS FOLLOWS
CARTER'S STRESS ON FREEDOMS ISSUE"

THE STATE DEPARTMENT CHARGED CZECHOSLOVAKIA TODAY WITH
HAVING VIOLATED THE PROVISIONS OF THE 1975 HELSINKI AGREE-
MENT BY A SERIES OF ARRESTS AND HARASSMENT OF HUMAN-RIGHTS
ACTIVISTS.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD
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PUBLICLY ACCUSED A GOVERNMENT OF FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO THE
HELSINKI ACCORD, WHICH WAS SIGNED BY THE UNITED STATES AND
34 OTHER STATES, INCLUDING CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE STATE
DEPARTMENT HAS GENERALLY AVOIDED COMMENTING ON OTHER
COUNTRIES' INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

BUT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS PLEDGED TO PAY GREATER

ATTENTION TO HUMAN-RIGHTS ISSUES ABROAD, AND THE STATE-MENT ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND APPROVED TODAY BY SECRETARY CYRUS R. VANCE.

CARTER'S PLEDGE OF RIGHTS RECALLED

ON INAUGURATION DAY, IN A STATEMENT ADDRESSED TO "CITIZENS OF THE WORLD," PRESIDENT CARTER SAID HIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD TRY TO SHAPE A WORLD ORDER "THAT IS MORE RESPONSIVE TO HUMAN ASPIRATION."

TODAY A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, FREDERICK Z. BROWN, READ A STATEMENT COMMENTING ON THE OFFICIAL REACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO THE DISSEMINATION OF A DOCUMENT CALLED "CHARTER 77," SIGNED BY 300 WRITERS, JOURNALISTS, SCIENTISTS, FORMER POLITICIANS AND OTHERS ACTIVE IN THE SHORT-LIVED LIBERAL MOVEMENT OF 1968.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK DOCUMENT, AS DESCRIBED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT, "PETITIONED THE GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHTS ACCORDED THEM BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK CONSTITUTION, THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL AND ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, AND BY THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT."

"WE HAVE NOTED THAT THE SIGNERS OF CHARTER 77 EXPLICITLY STATE THAT IT IS NOT A DOCUMENT OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID. 'SOME OF THE SIGNERS HAVE REPORTEDLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN DETAINED OR HARASSED." ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN INTERROGRATING AS MANY AS 200 SIGNERS, INCLUDING WRITERS LIKE PAVEL KOHOUT, VACLAV HAVEL, AND LUDVIK VACULIK.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID:

.AS YOU KNOW, THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT PROVIDES THAT 'IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, THE PARTICIPATING STATES WILL ACT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND WITH THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY WILL ALSO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATIONS AS SET FORTH IN THE INTERNATIONAL DECLARATIONS AND AGREEMENT. IN THIS FIELD, INCLUDING INTER ALIA THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BY WHICH THEY MAY BE BOUND.'

"ALL SIGNATORIES OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT ARE PLEDGED TO

PROMOTE, RESPECT AND OBSERVE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS FOR ALL. WE MUST STRONGLY DEPLORE THE VIOLATION OF SUCH RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS WHEREEVER THEY OCCUR."

COMPARISON WITH KISSINGER PRACTICE

AN OFFICIAL SAID THE DECISION TO CRITICIZE CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS TAKEN MOSTLY BECAUSE THE ARRESTS AND HARASSMENTS HAVE BEEN IN THE NEWS LATELY. HE SAID THAT IN THE PAST THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE COMMENTED IF ASKED BY A REPORTER FOR ITS REACTION, BUT WOULD NOT HAVE INITIATED A COMMENT.

"I DOUBT THAT UNDER KISSINGER WE WOULD EVEN HAVE BOTHERED DRAFTING A STATEMENT," HE SAID.

SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER GENERALLY OPPOSED W LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHAT HE REGARDED AS GRATUITOUS PUBLIC CRITICISM OF ANOTHER COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNLESS IT WOULD HAVE SOME DIRECT RESULTS. HE PREFERRED PRIVATE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS.

A CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA, IN JUNE TO REVIEW THE RESULTS AND FOLLOW UP TO THE HELSINKI ACCORD.

DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT.

VANCE

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